

DR. ȘTEFAN JARDA, THE FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUPERIOR DACIA IN CLUJ

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Abstract After the unification of Transylvania with Romania, the Ruling Council's major desiderata included the establishment and organization of Romanian higher education at the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj, as well as starting the first academic year in the autumn of 1919. Among those who answered the call launched by the founding Rector, Professor Sextil Pușcariu, was Dr. Ștefan Jarde, a specialist in legal studies, who served as General Secretary of the Cluj-based University from 1 October 1919 until his untimely death, on 6 March 1927. Born into a historical family from the Năsăud area, with a long "pedagogical" tradition, Ștefan Jarde graduated from the Faculty of Law of Universitas Litterarum Regia Hungarica Francisco-Josephina Kolozsváriensis, becoming its first Secretary General after it was turned into a Romanian university and contributing to laying and strengthening its foundations. His activity was held in very high regard and his untimely death sparked many regrets.

Keywords University of Superior Dacia in Cluj, the origins and family background of Dr. Ștefan Jarde, Secretary General of the University, appreciation of professional activity.

1. Historical background

The heroic deeds of arms of the Romanian Royal Army and the sacrifices made by the entire Romanian society during World War I paved the way for accomplishing the age-old dream of all Romanians, including the Transylvanian Romanians: becoming united with Romania. This Great Union was instrumented by the 1919-1920 Peace Treaties of Versailles, Saint-Germain,

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Trianon, Neuilly and Paris, which “recognized and recorded in texts of international law”¹ Romania’s new borders, as a result of the enforcement of the principles of the nationalities’ rights and the self-determination of peoples. The unified Romanian State was perceived as “a living reality and was the fruit of a certain historical evolution and of the entire Romanian nation’s endeavours since time immemorial”², reflecting its “perfect geographical unity following the outlines of ancient Dacia”,³ to quote Emmanuel de Martonne.⁴

Under the new circumstances, following the retrieval of its natural borders, Romania's ruling elite laid special emphasis on education and the training of teachers nationwide, especially in the historical provinces that had been reintegrated into the country’s geographical body. In Transylvania and Bukovina, it became necessary to reorganize the universities of the dual Austro-Hungarian monarchy, in Cluj and in Chernivtsi, laying the foundations of higher education in the Romanian language.

The Ruling Council of Transylvania was particularly interested in opening, in the fall of 1919, academic lines of study in Romanian at the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj. There were countless difficult aspects that had to be managed in the complex process of taking school units of all levels, including the University, over from the Hungarian State and, then, of organizing Romanian education in Transylvania.

¹ George Sofronie, “România în viața internațională,” in *Enciclopedia României*, vol. I, *Statul*, București, Imprimeria Națională, 1938, p. 983.

² Idem

³ Idem

⁴ **Emmanuel Louis Eugène de Martonne**, (1873, Chabris – 1955, Sceaux), French scholar, geographer, university professor, member of the French Academy of Sciences (1942), honorary member of the Romanian Academy (1919), Secretary General (1931) and President (1949-1952) of the International Geographical Union, a great friend of Romania . He graduated from Lycée Ambroise-Paré in 1882 and became a student at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, where he earned a degree in Geography and History (1885), embracing afterwards a university career in 1909, as a Professor at the Sorbonne. In 1902 he obtained his PhD in Geography with the thesis *La Valachie. Essai de monographie géographique [Wallachia. A Geographic Monography]*, the fruit of many years of study in Romania, which he knew and understood fully. In the period 1918-1919 he was co-opted as an expert of the Paris Peace Conference for tracing the borders of Romania and Poland, on the basis of the ethnic population share. Along with his disciple, Professor George Vâlsan, he played an important role in organizing the geographical higher education in Cluj and establishing the Institute of Geography of the University of Cluj, these actions leading his being awarded an Honorary Doctorate by King Ferdinand I University of Cluj (1930). He authored numerous works, such as *Traité de Géographie physique [A Treatise on Physical Geography]* (1909), in 3 volumes, which was republished in several editions.

The University of Cluj was founded on 12 October 1872, under the Imperial Decree passed by Emperor-King Franz Joseph I of Austria-Hungary,⁵ bearing the official title: *A Magyar Királyi Ferenc József-Tudományegyetem – Universitas Hungarica Francisco-Josephina Kolozsváriensis*.. The Imperial Decree of 1872 sanctioned the University's classical scheme of organization, which was also broadly perpetuated in the Romanian administration, until 1948. Thus, the University comprised four faculties: the Faculty of Law and State Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and History and the Faculty of Sciences.

2. Organization of the University

The historian Mureșan Florin Valeriu points out that at that time, "the main units in the structure of the University were the faculties, the sections, the departments, the seminaries and the institutes. These sections, departments, seminaries and institutes, as subdivisions of the faculties, evinced varying degrees of belonging to this University, depending on their scientific profile. The role and tasks of these academic units remained largely the same throughout the existence of the University of Cluj".⁶

As evidenced by Article III of the founding Imperial Decree, the Cluj University's structure by faculties was as follows: 1. The Faculty of Law and State Sciences; 2. The Faculty of Medicine; 3. The Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and History; 4. The Faculty of Mathematics and Science. In broad lines, during the period 1872-1948, this was the operating structure of the University of Cluj, with an amendment in 1942, when the protocol order of the faculties was changed: Law; Philosophy, Letters and History; Sciences; Medicine⁷.

The faculties were set up as the main entities. After 1924, they also had, like the University, legal personality. The duties of a faculty were "to organize and carry out instructive, scientific and educational activity in a certain professional direction, in a field or in related fields of science. The role of the department, as it had been outlined in German universities, was that of a centre around which scientific and teaching activity revolved. It was the teaching

⁵ **Franz Joseph I**, (1830, Vienna – 1916, Vienna), Emperor of Austria (1848-1916), King of Hungary (1867-1916). A monarch with a long reign and absolutist tendencies, insufficiently open to socio-political and administrative innovations, with a military career which debuted at the age of 13 years. He initiated the modernization of Vienna. He was married to Princess Elisabeth of Wittelsbach (1854), known as Sissi. During his reign, the Royal Hungarian University, *Magyar Királyi Ferenc József-Tudományegyetem – Universitas Hungarica Francisco-Josephina Kolozsváriensis*, was established in Cluj in 1872, with Hungarian as the language of instruction, and Franz-Josefs Universität was founded in Czernowitz in 1875, with German as the language of instruction.

⁶ Florin Valeriu Mureșan, , *Universitatea Regele Ferdinand I. Dosare cadre universitare*, Nr. Fond 798, Nr. Inventar 1407, Cluj-Napoca, Cluj County Branch of the National Archives, 1996, p.3.

⁷ Ibid., 4.

unit of subjects that did not require laboratory study, but included seminars. The institutes were administrative entities subordinated to the departments. The offices, which represented an inter-war innovation, had solely administrative purposes and could belong either to the faculties or to the University”.⁸

Under the Romanian administration, the classical organizational structure of the University remained the same: faculties, sections, departments, seminaries and institutes, in keeping with the Romanian legislation. Throughout its existence, the University bore the names: A Magyar Királyi Ferenc József-Tudományegyetem – Universitas Hungarica Francisco-Josephina Kolozsváriensis (12 October 1872–12 May 1919), the University of Superior Dacia (1 October 1919-1927), and King Ferdinand I University (18 October 1927-1948). In 1948, upon the introduction of the Communist reform in education (3 August 1948), King Ferdinand I University was given the name of the scientist Victor Babeş.⁹ Victor Babeş University merged, in 1959, with the Hungarian János Bolyai¹⁰ University, which had been set up through the transformation, in April 1945, of Ferenc József University, giving rise to Babeş-Bolyai University.

For as long as Dr. Ştefan Jarda worked as Secretary General of the University, its administrative organizational structure encompassed the Secretariat of the Rector’s Office, with a limited staff scheme: 1 Secretary General, 1 archivist, 3 “officials” – clerks and 2 attendants, to whom were added the Administration and the accounting department, a service in whose structure one position of each of the following were included: administrator, accountant, cashier, secretary, adjunct secretary, intendent and mechanic; two office head and porter posts, three posts of “officials” – clerks and four attendants.

⁸ Ibid., 5-6.

⁹ **Victor Babeş**, (1854, Vienna – 1926, Bucharest), Romanian scholar, bacteriologist, university professor, member of the Romanian Academy (1893). He studied medicine in Budapest and Vienna, where he earned a PhD; in 1887 he started his activity at the Department of Pathological Anatomy and Bacteriology of the University of Bucharest. Together with Victor André Cornil, he authored the first treatise of bacteriology in the world, *Les bactéries et leur rôle dans l’anatomie et l’histologie pathologique des maladies infectieuses* [*Bacteria and Their Role in the Anatomy and Pathological Histology of Infectious Diseases*] (1885). He was a member of the University Commission, a body set up at the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj, under the chairmanship of Professor Sextil Puşcariu, invested with the organization of the University and the employment of its teaching staff.

¹⁰ **János Bolyai**, (1802, Cluj – 1860, Târgu Mureş), scientist, Transylvanian Hungarian mathematician, the creator of non-Euclidean geometry. After graduating from High School in Cluj (1817), he studied at the Military Engineering Academy in Vienna (1817-1822), becoming an engineer officer. As a military engineer of genius, he participated in the fortification works in Timişoara (1823-1826), Arad, Szeged, Lemberg, Olmutz, retiring from the army in 1833. Independently from the mathematicians Nikolai Ivanovici Lobachevsky (1792-1856) and Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855), he built a non-Euclidean geometry system, which he published in the *Appendix* to the treaty of his father, the mathematician Farkas Bolyai, *Tentamen juventutem studiosam* (1832) and in *Responsio* (1837).

The process of taking over the University of Cluj under Romanian administration and reorganizing its structures was extremely laborious. Among the personalities who were in charge of taking over the Hungarian University and organizing it on Romanian bases were Vasile Goldiș¹¹, who held, at that time, the portfolio of Religious Denominations and Public Instruction in the Ruling Council of Transylvania, Valeriu Braniște¹², under whose coordination, on 12 May 1919, the University passed under Romanian administration, being taken over by Onisifor Ghibu.¹³ After the takeover, the scholar Sextil Pușcariu was appointed Commissioner

¹¹ **Vasile Goldiș**, (1862, Seleuș-Cigărel, present-day Vasile Goldiș, Arad – 1934, Arad), Romanian politician, high state official, honorary member of the Romanian Academy (1919). He attended High School in Arad (1873-1881), enrolled at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy in Budapest (1881-1882) and continued his studies in Vienna (1882-1885), where he earned a Bachelor's Degree. From 1893 on, he was a member of the Romanian National Party of Transylvania, being elected member of the Parliament in Budapest (1906-1910), where he actively campaigned for the rights of the Transylvanian Romanians. On 2 December 1918, he was appointed head of the Ministry of Public Instruction with the Ruling Council of Transylvania, a position that he ceded, on 17 December, in favour of Valeriu Braniște, having been co-opted as Minister without a portfolio in the Government in Bucharest. He was President of ASTRA in the period 1923-1932. He had an impressive publishing activity, writing mostly in the publications *Tribuna* from Sibiu and *Tribuna poporului* from Arad.

¹² **Valeriu Braniște**, (1869, Cincu, Făgăraș–1928, Lugoj), Romanian journalist, politician, honorary member of the Romanian Academy (1919). After graduating from High School in Sibiu, he pursued higher education in the field of Letters at the University of Budapest, where he obtained his doctorate (1891), with the thesis *Mureșianu András. Tanulmány az erdélyi román irodalom köréből* [*Andrei Mureșianu. A Study on the Romanian Literature from Transylvania*]. He carried out a sustained political activity, being the editor of the periodicals *Tribuna* (Sibiu), *Dreptatea* (Timișoara), *Drapelul* (Lugoj). He was a member of the Ruling Council of Transylvania, where, on 17 December 1918, he became the head of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Instruction. In this capacity, he founded Romanian schools in all the cities of Transylvania, resorting to teachers from the Old Kingdom; he made a decisive contribution to the establishment of the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj. After the dissolution of the Ruling Council (April 4, 1922), he returned to Lugoj. His works included: *Societatea teatrală G.A.Petculescu* [The G.A.Petculescu Theatrical Society] (1902, Brașov), *Tabla de la Lugoj: un monument prețios literar-istoric* [The Lugoj Board: A Precious Literary and Historical Monument] (1903 Lugoj), *Andrei Baron de Șaguna* [Andrei, Baron of Șaguna] (1923, București).

¹³ **Onisifor Ghibu**, (1883, Săliște, Sibiu – 1972, Cluj), Romanian historian and politician, university professor, member of Ruling Council of Transylvania, correspondent member of the Romanian Academy (1919). After finishing High School in Brașov and Sibiu, he attended the Andreian Theological Institute in Sibiu (1902-1905), and continued with bachelors in Philosophy, Pedagogy and History at the Universities of Bucharest, Budapest, Strasbourg and Jena, where he took his doctorate. On 2 December 1918 he was appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Instruction with the Ruling Council of Transylvania. In this capacity, he took over the Hungarian University of Cluj and organized it on Romanian foundations. In 1919 he was invited to occupy a position as a professor at the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, where he worked until 1945, when, because of his pro-Romanian policy and his stance against

General for the organization of the University of Cluj, becoming its first Rector (1919–1920). The placement of the University of Cluj under Romanian administration has correspondences abroad with the situations of the Universities of Strasbourg (France), Pozsony, present-day Bratislava (Czechoslovakia at that time, now in Slovakia), and Dorpat, present-day Tartu (Estonia). Aware of the importance of the mission entrusted to him, Sextil Pușcariu¹⁴ called it "the duty of our lives",¹⁵ writing the following lines about it: "When the history of these great times, whose contemporaries we are, is written, reference will be made, of course, to an act of great consequence, namely the establishment of the Romanian University in Cluj, in the very first year of our dominion over the ancestral lands between the Carpathians and the Tisa".¹⁶

Following these sometimes superhuman endeavours, the University of Superior Dacia was about to be inaugurated. On 1 October 1919, by High Royal Decree no. 4031 issued by King Ferdinand, the third University in Romania was established. Its courses began on 3 November 1919 with the inaugural lecture "The Duty of Our Lives" delivered by the scholar Vasile Pârvan¹⁷, whose message was appropriated and assumed by the whole faculty after

communism, he was dismissed and imprisoned for eight months, a situation that was repeated during the period 1956–1958. His writings included *Despre educație* [*On Education*] (1911, Sibiu), *Universitatea românească a Daciei Superioare* [*The Romanian University of Dacia Superior*] (1924, Cluj), *Cum s-a făcut unirea Basarabiei* [*How the Union of Bessarabia Was Accomplished*] (1925, Sibiu).

¹⁴ **Sextil Pușcariu**, (1877, Brașov – 1948, Bran, Brașov), Romanian philologist, literary linguist, historian, university professor, Rector of the University of Dacia Superior/King Ferdinand I in Cluj (1919/1920, 1940/1941), member of the Romanian Academy (1914), high UN officer in Geneva (1922–1925). This scholar had a decisive contribution to organizing the Romanian University in Cluj, as President of the University Commission and then as its first rector. He attended Andrei Șaguna High School in Brașov, after that completed his graduate studies in Philology at the University of Leipzig (1895–1899), where he earned a PhD, furthering his education in Paris (1899–1901) and Vienna (1902–1904), and subsequently embracing an academic career. He was Professor at the University of Chernivtsi (1906–1918). Then the Ruling Council of Transylvania appointed him Commissioner-General for the organization of the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj, where he taught from 1926 on. He is the author of a vast work and the co-ordinator of many volumes, such as *Istoria literaturii române. Epoca veche* [*The History of Romanian Literature. The Old Period*] (3 editions, 1921, 1930, 1936), *Dicționarul limbii române, Atlasul lingvistic român* [*The Dictionary of the Romanian Language, The Romanian Linguistic Atlas*], large-scale works, or of memoirs: *Brașovul de altădată* [*Brașov in Days of Yore*] (1977, Cluj-Napoca), *Memorii* [*Memoirs*] (1978, Bucharest). Moreover, he founded and led *Dacoromania* magazine, and in 1919 founded the Museum of the Romanian Language in Cluj.

¹⁵ Sextil Pușcariu, *Anuarul Universității din Cluj, Anul I, 1919–1920* (Cluj, Tipografia Institutului de Arte Grafice „Ardealul”, 1921), 1–40.

¹⁶ Silviu Neagoe, *Viața universitară clujeană interbelică*, vol. I. (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Dacia, 1980), 49.

¹⁷ **Vasile Pârvan** (1882, Perchiu, Tecuci [azi Bacău] – 1927, Bucharest), Romanian scholar, historian, archaeologist and epigraphist, university professor, member of the Romanian Academy (1913). After graduating from the classical section of the high school in Bârlad, he studied History at the University of

Sextil Pușcariu had launched it as Chairman of the University Commission, "confessing the profession of faith embraced by the generation that has been called upon to raise the country from across the Carpathians to its new historic standing".¹⁸

3. Ștefan Jarda's personality: his origins, family, training and professional activity¹⁹

The first Secretary General of the University of Cluj carried out his activity in the period 1 October 1919–6 March 1927; he was perceived by his contemporaries as "a lover of progress, with a sense of duty and of devotion for everything that ensured cultural advancement and an idealist outlook, but who was otherwise modest, unpretentious and honest".²⁰

Dr. Ștefan Jarda "was born in a family of teachers" on 10 August 1893 in Năsăud, as "the son of the former teacher from Năsăud"²¹ Ioan Jarda (18 February 1847, Sângeorz – 8 September 1893, Tiha Bârgăului), who had been "the teacher of teachers, President of the Marian Society of teachers in the former border guard district"²² of Năsăud. Ioan Jarda was in turn the son of Dănilă Jarda (1812-1868), a soldier, and Ana, who came from Prundul Bârgăului, who had got married in 1846. The couple had several children: Ioan, Senia, Alexa, Vasile and Magdalena.²³

Bucharest, receiving a BA degree in 1904. He attended a specialization in Ancient History at the Universities of Vienna, Berlin and Breslau, where he earned his doctorate with a thesis entitled *Die Nationalität der Kaufleute im römischen Kaiserreiche. Eine Untersuchung historisch-epigraphische* [*The Nationality of Merchants in the Roman Empire. A Historical-Epigraphic Research*] (1909), becoming Professor of Ancient History at the University of Bucharest. He opened numerous archaeological sites, especially in Dobruja. He was the founder of the publishing house "Cultura Națională." He brought a major contribution to the organization of Romanian higher education at the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, as a member of the University Commission, the body created by Ruling Council of Transylvania, under the chairmanship of Professor Sextil Pușcariu, who was invested with the organization of the University and employing the teaching staff, as well as with assigning the first name of the University (named after him). His vast written work included *Începuturile vieții romane la gurile Dunării* [*The Beginnings of Roman Life at the Mouths of the Danube*] (1923), *Getica, o proto-istorie a Daciei* [*Getica, A Proto-History of Dacia*] (1926).

¹⁸ Silviu Neagoe, *Viața universitară clujeană interbelică*, vol. I., 104.

¹⁹ The photographs and documents from figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 are part of the Jarda family's archives; they have been made available to me by Mr. Pavel Jarda, the grandson of Dr. Ștefan Jarda, whom I must thank here.

²⁰ xxx, *Cuvântările rostite la înmormântarea lui Dr. Ștefan Jarda, secretar general al Universității din Cluj, fost secretar al Fondurilor grănicerești din Năsăud* (Bistrița: Tipografia Națională G. Matheiu, 1927), 4-5.

²¹ Ibid. 4; Teodor Tanco, *Virtus Romana Rediviva. Urme peste veacuri*, vol. II. (Bistrița, 1974), 249-251.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ioan Pop, *Biografia lui Ioan Jarda, directorul a Școlii fundamentale din Năsăud* (Bistrița: Tipografia Carol Csallner, 1894), 6-7.

The priest Silviu Sohorca from Sângeorz described Dănilă Jarda as “a man of firm character, a resolute and frank individual, just like our folk, the old border guards, used to be”.²⁴ The family of Ștefan Jarda’s wife, Zoe Pletos, also had old, prestigious Năsăud roots. The oldest known ancestor of this family was Atanasiu (Tănasă) Anton (1689–1760), a priest in Năsăud, mentioned as “Atanasie Anton nobilis Valachorum nassodiensis”.²⁵ In this family, the fifth son of Ioan (1783–1861), a lieutenant in the Năsăud Border Guard Regiment, was Teodor (1824–1903), a captain in the Austro-Hungarian Army. In 1866 the latter’s daughter, Angela, married Grigore Pletos (9 June 1848, Chintelnic–4 November 1934, Bistrița), a teacher at the High School of Năsăud and, then, an Orthodox archpriest in Bistrița (1909–1934). Their daughter, Zoe Pletos, born in Bistrița on 19 October 1891, married Ștefan Jarda, Secretary General of the University of Superior Dacia of Cluj, at Bistrița on 8 September 1917.²⁶ The couple had three children: a daughter, who died in infancy, and two sons, Radu-Ștefan (1917–2008), an Associate Professor at the Polytechnic University in Cluj-Napoca, and Tudor (1922–2007). The latter, fond of music, was the Professor of Harmony at the Music Academy in Cluj-Napoca (1948–1984) and composed choir, opera and chamber music. Tudor Jarda married Elvira Poroliseanu; they had two children, Radu (1946–1970), a musician, and Pavel (born 1952), a visual artist.

Returning to Ioan Jarda, the father of Ștefan Jarda, he attended primary school in Sângeorz in 1854 and 1855, obtaining a graduation certificate on 1 April 1857; in 1858 he started the third primary grade at the Pedagogical School in Năsăud, whose classes he graduated in 1859. After graduating from primary school, he enrolled in the Gymnasium of Bistrița, but soon returned to Năsăud where, in 1860–1862, he attended the Preparandia (teacher-training school), receiving a Bachelor’s degree on 20 July 1862. At the mere age of fifteen, he started a beautiful teaching career, which was to last 31 years, in several towns and villages in Transylvania. Thus, he started teaching in the village of Dobrin near Gherla, where he worked for two years (1862–1864), then in Moigrad (1864–1865) and Aghireșu, “a village at the foot of the Meseș” where he worked for eight years.²⁷ In 1869 he worked as a teacher in Sângeorz.²⁸ In 1871 he started a family by marrying Tereza Maior, daughter of the Greek Catholic cantor from the Romanian church in Șimleul Silvaniei. In 1873 he became a teacher in Monor, where he worked until 1876; there, his wife passed away in 1873.²⁹ Having become a widower, he remarried Livia-Elena, daughter of notary Ștefan Neamțu from Feldru. Their marriage was blessed by God with a daughter, Maria, who married Dr. Scridon, county deputy-

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ștefan Buzilă, “Familia grănicerească Anton,” Năsăud, *Arhiva Someșană* 11 (1929): 45–46.

²⁶ Ibid., 49–50.

²⁷ Ioan Pop, , *Biografia lui Ioan Jarda*, 13.

²⁸ Ibid.16.

²⁹ Ibid. 20.

notary, and three sons, Dănilă, Ioan and Ștefan, the youngest being the future Secretary General of the University of Cluj. In 1876 the teacher Ioan Jarda requested to be transferred to Năsăud, to the foundational Pedagogical School,³⁰ where, after the death of headmaster Cosma Anca (1886), he was elected, on 12 August, to fill this position. During an inspection at the school in Tiha Bârgăului, he died suddenly, at the age of only 46 years.

The desire for emancipation through education among the residents of the Năsăud area was and has remained very vivid. This is what Issue no. 6 of *Gazeta Bistriței* from 15 March 1927 had to say about the vocation for learning in this realm of Năsăud: "The Land of Năsăud, realm of the border guards, has been a region of well-organized schools ever since the period of militarization. These harsh and harshening schools of discipline and orderly education are the only trace left of the border guard phenomenon, which emancipated Romanians from oppressive slavery, from feudalism and the darkness spread by the lack of education; they left a deep and characteristic imprint in our people in those areas".³¹ The author of the lines above skilfully captured the teaching vocation of the inhabitants of the Năsăud area, where young students were supported with scholarships to study, and their teachers enjoyed a great deal of appreciation and esteem among the community, a situation that is still valid today. It was "from this environment and with the seal of this school-loving world that Ștefan Jarda was born, and this seal was to mark out his character".³²

Ștefan Jarda attended and graduated from primary school in Năsăud, where he became an orphan at the young age of only ten years. After losing his father, young Ștefan began the lower High School classes "at the Saxons, in Bistrița",³³ and then continued them at the High School in Năsăud, where he graduated. After his High School graduation, "he enrolled in the University of Cluj, where he graduated from law"³⁴ becoming an attorney. It should be noted that he started his academic education at the Hungarian University of Cluj, continued it at the Academy of Law in Pozsony (Bratislava), finishing it in Cluj in 1912. Here is the Latin text of the diploma and its translation into Romanian by Professor Rus Vasile:

*Nos Rector
et Universitas Litterarum Regia Hungarica Francisco-Josephina
Kolozsváriensis*

Lectoris Salutem

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ xxx, *Cuvântările rostite la înmormântarea lui Dr. Ștefan Jarda*, 4.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid., 15.

³⁴ Ibid.

*Postquam Ornatissimus Dominus **Stephanus Jarda** annorum aetatis XXVIII, religionis Cath<olicæ> Græcii ritus, e pago Naszód in Comitatu Besztercze-Naszód ortus, diligentem assiduamque universæ Jurisprudentiæ Scientiarumque politicarum per plures annos navavit operam, in rigorosis ex omni Jurisprudencia benigne præscriptis examinibus, in Dissertatione quoque inaugurali elaboranda eruditum se et Juris abunde peritum præstitit: libenter Eidem petenti honorem, qui virtuti et honestis studiis debetur, contulimus.*

*Quapropter Facultate Nobis virtute articuli diaetalis XIX anni MDCCCLXXII. concessa, Eundem Ornatissimum Dominum **Stephanum Jarda** die, mense et anno infrascriptis **Doctorem Juris Universi** pronuntiavimus, ac declaravimus, omnes Eidem damus, concedimus tribuimusque honores, prærogativas ac privilegia, quæ veris certisque Juris Universi Doctoribus ubilibet de lege aut consuetudine competent.*

In quorum omnium fidem Diploma hoc publicum maiore Universitatis Nostræ sigillo munitum et consuetis subscriptionibus roboratum Ei dari curavimus.

Datum in Libera Regia Civitate Kolozsvár in Hungaria die XV mensis Junii anno Domini millesimo nongentesimo duodecimo.

<p>Julius de Szádeczky Philosophiæ Doctor, polit<icarum> Doctor Mineralogiæ Prof<essor> Publ<icus> Ord<inarius> Juris Pandectarum Prof<essor> Publ<icus> Ord<inarius> Instituti Mineralogi ac Geologici Director Coll<egii> Prof<essor> Ord<inarius> Mathem<aticæ> et Naturæ Scrutat<or> 1902/3Decanus A<nnorum> 1899/1900, 1907/1908 Decanus A<nnorum> 1900/1, 1908/9 Prodecanus huius Universitatis L<ocum> S<igilli> Rector</p>	<p>M[ór] Kiss Juris univ<ersi> et scient<iarum> Consiliarius Aulæ Regiæ huius Universitatis A<nnorum> 1904/5 Rector A<nnorum> 1982/3, 1893/4 et 1898/9, et Prodecanus L<ocum> S<igilli> DEcanus</p>
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We, the Rector

*and the Royal Franz Joseph Hungarian University of Letters in Cluj
May health be granted to those who will read this*

*After the most talented Mr. **Ștefan Jarda**, aged 28 years, of Greek-Catholic religion, born in the village of Năsăud in Bistrița-Năsăud County, endeavored earnestly and passionately, for several years, studying in the field of Jurisprudence and Political Sciences, after demonstrating his erudition in the rigorous and well-established exams in the entire field of Jurisprudence, as well as elaboring his inaugural dissertation, after abundantly proving his skilful knowledge of Law, we have gladly granted this Candidate the honor his virtue and honest study deserve.*

*In witness whereof, pursuant to dietal Article XIX of 1872, we have stated and declared the same outstanding Mr. **Ștefan Jarda** – on the day, month and year specified below - Doctor in Universal Law, giving, granting and assigning to him all the honours, prerogatives and privileges that are vested in the real and guarantor Doctors in Universal Law, everywhere, according to the law and to custom.*

Attesting all these things, we have awarded Him this public diploma, strengthened with the great seal of Our University and provided with the customary signatures.

Issued in the Royal Free City of Cluj in Hungary, on the 15th day of the month of June in the year of Our Lord 1912.

*Julius de Szádeczky*³⁵

*M[ór] Kiss*³⁶

³⁵ **Gyula Szádeczy-Kardoss**, (1860, Pusztafalu – 1935, Cluj), Transylvanian Hungarian geologist, university professor, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences in Cluj (1899/1900, 1907/1908, 1913/1914, 1919/1920), Rector of Magyar Királyi Ferenc József-Tudományegyetem – Universitas Hungarica Francisco-Josephina Kolozsvárensis (1911/1912). He was the son of the Reformed minister Szádeczy Sámuel (1824-1894). He studied geology at the University of Budapest, as the disciple of Prof. József Szabó, after which he followed an internship at the Collège de France (1889-1890), with subsequent scientific collaborations with the Romanian, French and Italian academic milieus. In the period 1896-1918 he was a Professor at the Hungarian University of Cluj, and Director of the Institute of Mineralogy and Geology at this University. He focused on the geology and tectonics of the Bihor and the Vlădeasa Mountains, as well as of the Southern Carpathians, collaborating with Romanian scholars Ludovic Mrazec and Gheorghe Munteanu-Murgoci. He participated in many congresses of geology at St. Petersburg (1897), Paris (1900), Madrid (1926) and Pretoria (1929). After World War I, he remained in Cluj, being a member of various geologists' professional associations, as well as of the "Transylvanian Carpathian Association" (EKE). His books included: *A magyarországi Obsidiánok, különös tekintettel geológiai viszonyaikra* [A Geological Study of the Obsidian in Hungary] (1886), *Tufatanulmányok Erdélyben* [A Study of the Tuff in Transylvania] (3 volumes, 1914-1917, Cluj).

³⁶ **Mór Kiss**, (1857, Cluj – 1945, Budapest), Transylvanian Hungarian jurist, university professor, Rector of Magyar Királyi Ferenc József Tudományegyetem – Universitas Hungarica Francisco-Josephina

Doctor of Philosophy
Ordinary Public Professor of Mineralogy
Director of the Institute of Mineralogy and Geology
Ordinary Professor of the College
Researcher of Mathematics and Nature
Dean in 1899/1900, 1907/8
Vice-Dean of this University in 1890/1, 1908/9

Doctor in Universal Law and in Political Science
Ordinary Public Professor of Pandects in Law
Counsellor of the Royal Aula of the University
Rector in 1904/5
Vice Dean in 1892, 1893 and 1898/4/9, 1902/3

Seal
RECTOR

On the diploma, to the left, at the top, there is a Hungarian tax stamp with the face value of 2 crowns, issued in the 1903 series, having thirty-five values, with a new drawing in Secession style and with a filigree pattern III, red-orange in colour, which was circulated in Transylvania during the period 1903–1913; the stamp tax was rescinded by the document “1939–1911/12/clsz”.

After graduation, he began his career as a barrister in Rodna, along with his brother Ioan. After only two years, because he did not feel a calling to this profession, which did not “satisfy him emotionally” and “did not answer his preferences for school”,³⁷ he sought a job more in tune with his ideals. Thus, he became Secretary of the Border Guard Funds in Năsăud, working as such in the period from 1 May 1914 to 30 September–1919. In Năsăud, he gradually advanced in the administrative hierarchy, from Adjunct Secretary to Secretary and, later, Prefect of the Border Guard Funds. With respect to that period, his “certificate” attests his capacity, namely “his function of Prefect of the Năsăud Border Guard Funds,” which he “most

Kolozsvárensis (1904/1905). After graduating from the Unitarian College in Cluj, he studied law at the University of Budapest (1872–1876), obtaining a Bachelor’s in State Sciences (1876) and Law (1877). He attended specialization courses at the Universities of Leipzig, Berlin, Halle, Munich, Gottingen, Paris and Cluj (Roman Law, 1878). After graduation, he worked briefly in Cluj (1879/1880) in higher education, after which he was professor at the Academy of Law in Sibiu (1880–1884), then at the Hungarian University of Cluj (1884–1919), specializing in Roman Law and Pandects. After retiring from the Hungarian higher education system (1921), he remained in Cluj, where he lived throughout the interwar period. His legal works included: *Visszaemlékezés Windscheida és Iheringre* [Memories about Windscheid and Ihering] (Cluj, 1893), *A német birodalmi polgári törvénykönyv tervezete* [The Civil Code of the German Empire] (Budapest, 1899).

³⁷ xxx, *Cuvântările rostite la înmormântarea lui Dr. Ștefan Jarda*, 5.

skilfully administered and produced the most satisfying results for the Border Guard Funds, comprising several thousand yokes”:

No. 246-1923

Certificate

Attesting, on behalf of the undersigned Commission administrating the Năsăud Border Guard Funds, that Mr. Ștefan Jarda occupied, from 1 May 1914 until 30 September 1919, the office of economic prefect of these funds. During this time, Mr. Jarda managed them most skilfully and produced the most satisfying results in their domains [sic!, emphasis ours] of the Border Guard Funds, consisting of several thousand yokes.

*In witness whereof this certificate has been issued to serve him as needed
Năsăud, on 1 November 1923.*

On behalf of the Commission administrating the Border Guard Funds in Năsăud:

*President: Dr. Teofil Tanco*³⁸

*(I.s.) Secretary: Ioan Șerban*³⁹

³⁸ **Teofil Tanco**, (1882-1952, Năsăud, Bistrița), doctor, high school teacher, President of the Committee of the Năsăud Border Guard Funds (1922-1926). The son of mathematician Paul Tanco, **T.T.** attended primary and secondary school studies (high school) in his hometown, obtaining the graduation certificate in June 1899, after which he attended the Faculty of Medicine in Budapest (1899-1904). After graduating from university, he engaged in medical practice in hospitals in Budapest, until 1908, when he returned to his hometown, as a school physician and, at the same time, as a teacher of hygiene at the Border Guard High School (1 September 1909). It should be noted that, ever since its establishment, the Border Guard High School in Năsăud had had physicians: Ștefan P. Pop (1863-1880), Emil Filipan (1880-1909) and Teofil Tanco (1909-1948). The name of the physician **T.T.** is also linked to two important initiatives: the establishment of the Pedagogical School for Boys in Năsăud, which was opened on 1 October 1923, and the launching of the *Arhiva Someșană* magazine, a prestigious local publication with a high scientific standing (Tanco Teodor, 1974, 1987, vol. II, pp. 299-301, vol. VI, p. 255, 521).

³⁹ **Ioan Șerban**, (? , Giacăș, Sibiu - ?), jurist, government official, Prefect of Bistrița-Năsăud County (14 April 1920-24 January 1921). He was the Secretary of the Committee of Năsăud Border Guard Funds during the Presidency of Dr. Teofil Tanco. He was mentioned as a member of ASTRA, the Năsăud Branch, in 1892/1893. He attended high school at Dumbrăveni and Blaj, and after that he studied law at Debrecen. Upon graduation, he became a civil servant. In his farewell speech to the "people of Bistrița-Năsăud County" upon the termination of his term in office as prefect, on 13 February 1921, he stated: "Among you and with you I have spent the best part of my life. Yours is the merit that I have progressed from the humblest public service position to the seat of county prefect. Only by knowing your life, your troubles and privations and by striving to give you the help you need have I been able to gain the administrative knowledge that had blazed my path forward, little by little, from post to higher post. I look back with gratitude at the population of the villages Sângeorzul-Român [*Sângeorz-Băi*, emphasis ours], Văraea

The document is “strengthened” by three stamp marks and a circular stamp with the inscription on the circle, from outside to inside, on two rows:

“THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRAL SCHOLASTIC AND STIPENDIARY FUNDS IN
THE DISTRICT OF NĂSĂUD,” and the word “NĂSĂUD” in the centre.

There are two tax stamps with the face value of 1 Leu, in blue, from the series "King Ferdinand I" of 1916⁴⁰, as well as a stamp with a value of 25 Bani, from the series "Social Assistance" of 1921⁴¹. In the service of the administration of the border guard funds he was paid "only 1,600 kroner annually"⁴², even though "the service was quite difficult and had to be done simultaneously in two languages, Romanian and Hungarian"⁴³.

4. Dr. Ștefan Jarda acceded to the dignity of the Secretary General of the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj. His untimely death

The innovative wind after the Great Union of 1918 brought along the young Dr. Ștefan Jarda, who felt more useful in the Romanian administration of Transylvania, which at that time lacked highly qualified Romanian personnel. To that end, he addressed a request to the Bistrița Prefecture, on 8 January 1919, in the following terms:⁴⁴

Dear Mr. Prefect!

I, the undersigned, desiring to work in the administrative service of our county, have the honour of competing for a position of district proto-praetor.

In order to support my application I hereby present the following documents:

1. An official certificate of my qualifications;

[*Nepos*, emphasis ours] and Năsăud, in which I started my civil service as notary and laid the foundations of my knowledge of administration" (Onofreiu, Adrian, Băndean, Ana Maria, *Prefecții județului Bistrița-Năsăud (1919-1950, 1990-2014): ipostaze, imagini, mărturii*, Bistrița, Editura Charmides, 2014, pp. 52-53).

⁴⁰ László Erös, *Catalogul timbrelor fiscale românești* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Transfilex, 1995), 11.

⁴¹ Corneliu Spineanu, *Catalogul mărcilor poștale românești* (Bucharest: Direcția generală a Poștelor și Telecomunicațiilor, 1984), 161.

⁴² xxx, *Cuvântările rostite la înmormântarea lui Dr. Ștefan Jarda*, 12-13.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ General Directorate of State Archives, Bistrița-Năsăud Branch [DGAS, fil. B-N], Fund [F.] Năsăud County Prefecture. Prefect, [D] Documents the Prefect 1919-1925, Inventory No. [I.] 27, sheet [f.] 1-2.

2. *An official degree, which indicates that for 2 years and 5 months I gained experience as a lawyer; and*
3. *An attestation, which shows that by 1 June 1918 I had worked for a seven-year period for the Administration of the Border Guard Funds in [sic!] Năsăud, as secretary and manager of this office.*

On that basis, considering my study [sic] qualifications and my practice for years, both in the field of administration and in that of litigation, these circumstances entitle me to hope that I will be able to meet fully all the requirements related to the position of proto-praetor. Please take this request of mine into benevolent and just consideration.

*Hopefully, I hereby place my signature
Năsăud, 8 January 1919*

*Sincerely
Dr. Ștefan Jarda,
Secretary of the Border
Guard Funds [sic!]*

It is interesting to follow further, based on the archival documents I investigated at the Directorate General of State Archives, Bistrița-Năsăud Branch⁴⁵, thanks to the goodwill of researchers Adrian Onofreiu and Andreea Salvan, the conduct and content of the correspondence between the petitioner and the administrative institutions. Thus, on the one hand, we have proof of the journey of these documents in the decision-making process back then, at the very beginnings of Romanian administration, and on the other hand, of the language used at that time, when the terminology had not yet been crystallized either in the administration or in everyday conversation. For the administrative organization of Năsăud County and the equivalence of the terms designating the public administrative functions during the transitional period from the Austro-Hungarian to the Romanian administration, see the study of Adrian Onofreiu (2005).

Thus, a month later, on 9 February 1919, the Vice-Comes [Deputy Prefect, our emphasis] of Năsăud County, Dr. Leon Scridon⁴⁶, informed Dr. Iuliu Maniu⁴⁷ (here are the

⁴⁵ General Directorate of State Archives, Bistrița-Năsăud Branch [DGAS, fil. B-N], Fund [F.] Năsăud County Prefecture. Prefect, [D] Documents the Prefect 1919-1925, Inventory No. [I.] 27, old inventory no.58, code: BN-F-00003-2-1919-27.

⁴⁶ **Scridon Leon**, (1863, Feldru – 1942, Bistrița), Romanian jurist, high state official at the level of the administration of Bistrița-Năsăud County. He attended and graduated from the Border Guard High Gymnasium (High School) in Năsăud (1875-1883), then studied at the Faculty of Law and State Sciences of

German salutation formulas!) “President of the Ruling Council and head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs”, about Ștefan Jarda’s withdrawal from the competition for the “position of head praetor of Rodna Veche district”⁴⁸.

From the Bistrița-Năsăud County Prefecture

No. 58/1919

To

The Ruling Council, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Sibiu

Dr. Ștefan Jarda, Secretary of the Năsăud Border Guard Funds (sic!) has notified us that he has withdrawn his application for the position of head praetor in the Rodna veche district.

He informed Dr. Iuliu Maniu, President of the Ruling Council and head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs about his withdrawal by telegraph.

Please take this into consideration.

the University of Cluj (1887), settling later in Bistrița, where he worked at the County Prefecture (in the period of Austro-Hungarian dualism), as praetor, notary and head-notary (1906-1918), then as the County’s prefect and sub-prefect, after 1918. At the same time, he was a member of the Border Guard Funds (1896-1923), the Greek Catholic Church Committee in Bistrița (1896-1920). He campaigned for strengthening the Romanian sentiment in Transylvania; he opened the first Romanian library in Bistrița, “Lumina”. He was married to Maria Scridon (1875-1950). He was an active local press contributor: *Revista Graniței Năsăudene* and *Gazeta Bistriței*, editing the latter periodical in the period 1922-1932. His writings included: *Omagiu lui George Coșbuc* [*Homage to George Coșbuc*] (1926, Bistrița), *Fondurile grănicerești năsăudene, importanța lor și situația de astăzi* [*The Năsăud Border Guard Funds, Their Importance and the Situation Today*] (1934, Bistrița).

⁴⁷ **Iuliu Maniu**, (1873, Șimleul Silvaniei – 1953, the prison in Sighetul Marmăției), Romanian jurist, politician, Prime Minister of Romania (1928-1930, 1930, 1932-1933), honorary member of the Romanian Academy (1919). He attended the Reformed High School in Zalău, then completed his undergraduate studies in Law at the Universities of Cluj, Budapest and Vienna, receiving a doctorate in Juridical Science in 1896. He carried out an intense Romanian national political activity in Transylvania, as a member of the Romanian National Party (from 1891). He was a member of the Parliament in Budapest (1906-1910), becoming the artisan of the Great Union of 1 December 1918, President of Transylvania’s Ruling Council (1918-1920), and leader of the National Peasants’ Party in Greater Romania. Following the non-democratic process of installing communism in Romania by the Red Army of the Soviet Union, he was arrested in the summer of 1947 and sentenced to life in prison.

⁴⁸ General Directorate of State Archives, Bistrița-Năsăud Branch [DGAS, fil. B-N], Fund [F.] Năsăud County Prefecture. Prefect, [D] Documents the Prefect 1919-1925, Inventory No. [I.] 27, sheet [f.] 3.

Bistrița, February 9 1919

Vice-Comes

Dr. Leon Scridon

On this notification it is written that "*the documents [were] sent by post. 3.IV.1919*", to the applicant, of course, that is, to Dr. Ștefan Jarda. This happened a day later, when the county prefect addressed the head praetor of Năsăud in the following terms: "*I am hereby sending these documents for referral. B[istrița] on 4 April 1919*"⁴⁹.

Meanwhile he was sent and "received with pleasure the invitation to be the first secretary general of the Romanian University in Cluj".⁵⁰ He came to the University of Cluj answering the invitation of Professor Nicolae Drăgan. His brother Ioan, who knew him well, confessed in his farewell upon Jarda's death, that in his capacity as general secretary, "his work was solitary, silent, almost anonymous, but all the more useful, since it was most needed".⁵¹ Continuing his idea, not without a wave of regret, he said that "the administrator has none of the pleasures of that spiritual contact with the wave of science-eager youth, felt by the professor in the apostleship of sowing the enlightening word in welcoming souls".⁵² As Secretary General of the University of Cluj, Dr. Ștefan Jarda operated under the leadership of many rectors, as it was customary for them to be elected for one academic year, the so-called "Rector of the Year", distinguished professors, as follows: Sextil Pușcariu (1919/1920), Vasile Dimitriu (1920/1921)⁵³, Dimitrie Călugăreanu (1921/1922)⁵⁴, Iacob Iacobovici (1922/1923)⁵⁵,

⁴⁹ General Directorate of State Archives, Bistrița-Năsăud Branch [DGAS, fil. B-N], Fund [F.] Năsăud County Prefecture. Prefect, [D] Documents the Prefect 1919-1925, Inventory No. [I.] 27.

⁵⁰ xxx, *Cuvântările rostite la înmormântarea lui Dr. Ștefan Jarda*, 5.

⁵¹ Ibid. 6.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ **Vasile Dimitriu**, (1859, ? – 1928, Bucharest), jurist, university professor. He carried out law studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Iași, where he was hired upon graduation and developed his academic career, becoming a full professor. He attended specialization courses at the Universities of Paris and Berlin. With the establishment of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, he was invited to lay the foundations of the Faculty of Law (1919); he was Rector of the University of Cluj (1920/1921). Subsequently, he transferred to the University of Bucharest, where he passed away soon afterwards. He was awarded the French Legion of Honour, the rank of Knight. His works included: *Contractul de cont curent* [*The Current Account Contract*] (1906), *Dreptul comercial* [*Commercial Law*] (in collaboration, Berlin).

⁵⁴ **Dimitrie Călugăreanu**, (1868, Pomârla, Botoșani – 1937, Bucharest), Romanian naturalist and physiologist, doctor, professor, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences in Cluj (1919-1921), Rector of the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj (1921/1922), corresponding member of the Romanian Academy (1920). He attended Anastase Bașotă High School in Pomârla, then completed his Bachelor's degree at the University of Iași, the Faculty of Sciences, graduating in Natural Sciences (1894). In 1897 he graduated

Nicolae Bănescu (1923/1924),⁵⁶ Camil Negrea (1924/1925),⁵⁷ Gheorghe Spacu (1925/1926)⁵⁸ and Ioan Minea (1926/1927).⁵⁹ His work as Secretary General of the University was

from the Faculty of Medicine in Iași and then carried out specialization courses at the Institute of Physiology in Berlin (1897/1898), in Paris (1898-1900), where he earned his BSc and PhD (1902), with a thesis on *Recherches de Physiologie expérimentale et de chimie physique sur l'hématolyse* [*Experimental Physiology and Physical Chemistry Research on Hematolysis*]. Returning to the country, he became a Professor at the University of Bucharest (1902-1919), and upon the establishment of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, he worked as a Professor of Animal Physiology (1919-1926); in 1926 he returned to the University of Bucharest. He founded the journal *Știința tuturor* (1918) and collaborated to the journal *Natura*.

⁵⁵ **Iacob Iacobovici**, (1879, Costești, Botoșani – 1959, Bucharest), Romanian doctor of Armenian origins, surgeon, university professor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj (1921/1922), Rector of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, (1922/1923). After finishing August Treboniu Laurian High School in Botoșani, he attended and graduated from the University of Bucharest's Faculty of Medicine, becoming an intern doctor at the Brâncovenesc Hospital in Bucharest (1901). In 1902 he started his teaching career, which lasted until 1946. During the 1919-1933 period, he taught at the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, to whose creation he had contributed substantially. His works included: *Demonstrații clinice* [Clinical Demonstrations] (1910), *Organizarea serviciului sanitar militar* [Organization of the Military Medical Service] (1914), *Chirurgie de război* [Wartime Surgery] (1915), *Manualul de chirurgie a etajului abdominal superior* [Manual of Upper Abdominal Surgery] (1922), *Propedeutica chirurgicală* [Surgical Propaeutics] (1927). He initiated and co-authored the first *Tratat de chirurgie semiotică, clinică și terapeutică* [Treatise of Semiotic, Clinical and Therapeutic Surgery] (1939).

⁵⁶ **Nicolae Bănescu**, (1878, Călărași – 1971, Bucharest), Romanian historian, Byzantologist, university professor, Rector of the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj (1923/1924), the last director of the Carol I University Foundation (1946-1948), member of the Romanian Academy (1936). He attended university courses of History at the University of Bucharest, specializing at the University of Munich (1910-1912), where he obtained a doctorate in Greek Philology, with a Thesis entitled *Die Entwicklung des griechischen Futurismus von der frühbyzantinischen zeit bis zur Gegenwart* [*The Development of Greek Futurism from the Early Byzantine Period until Today*]. He was Professor of Byzantine History at Cluj University (1919-1937), then the Director of University of Bucharest (1938-1946), the Institute of Byzantine Studies (1940-1948). He published numerous studies and books in the field of Byzantine studies, as well as a series of historical monographs. Posthumously, edited by Tudor Teotoi, his *History of the Byzantine Empire* saw the light of print (2 volumes, 2000, 2003, Bucharest).

⁵⁷ **Camil Negrea**, (1882, Făgăraș – 1956, Cluj), Romanian jurist, university professor, Dean of the Faculty of Law in Cluj (1920/1921, 1926/1927, 1940/1942), Rector of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj (1924/1925). After graduating from Blaj (1898), he attended the Law Faculty of Cluj, which he graduated in 1904, practising law in Făgăraș afterwards (1904-1919). After the founding of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj, he was Professor of Civil Law there (1919-1948) and Director of the Seminary of Civil Law. He is the author of *Dreptul civil al ținuturilor ardeleni și ungurene în comparație cu dreptul român* [*The Civil Law of the Transylvanian and Hungarian Lands in Comparison with Romanian Law*] (3 volumes, 1920-

appreciated both by the academic body of his fellow members of the university administration, and his family, as we saw above. As Secretary General of the University, Ștefan Jarda was a member of the academic Senate, the collective governing body consisting of the Rector, the Vice-Rector, the Deans and the Vice-Deans of the four faculties, whose establishment had been decided on 15 September 1919.

Lamenting the untimely death of Secretary General Ștefan Jarda, at the age of 44, which occurred in Cluj on 6 March 1927, the Rector of the University during the academic year 1926/1927, the neurologist physician Professor Ioan Minea characterized him as "the most invaluable adjunct to the leadership of our University"⁶⁰, who had "clear judgment" and "a great power of work," representing, for the rector, "a true blessing"⁶¹. However, he remained in the memory of the members of the University as "a man of rare modesty, almost shy in his appearance"⁶², who "had no material ambition," being "a perfectly honest and upright man, true to himself and to the others, of just and fair character, like a genuine Transylvanian from the border guard area, worthy of being set as an example"⁶³.

1933), *Dreptul de servitute. Curs de drept civil [The Right of Servitude. A Course on Civil Law]* (1933), *Noul regim al cărților funciare [The New Regime of Land Registers]* (1942).

⁵⁸ **Gheorghe Spacu**, (1883, Iași – 1955, Bucharest), Romanian chemist, university professor, Rector of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj (1925/1926), member of the Romanian Academy (1936). After finishing the National High School in Iași (1894-1901), he studied at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Iași, receiving a degree in 1905. From 1905 to 1907 he attended specialization courses at the Universities of Vienna and Berlin, after which he embraced a university teaching career as the Assistant of Professor Neculai Costăchescu in Iași. In 1916 he obtained a doctorate in Chemistry with a thesis on *Combinații complexe de fier-Feramine [Complex Combinations of Iron-Feramine]*, becoming Head of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Iași. In 1919 he was transferred to the University of Superior Dacia in Cluj, where he became Professor (1922), and in 1939 he was transferred to the University of Bucharest, where he ended his academic career at the Department of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry.

⁵⁹ **Ioan Minea**, (1878, Tulgheș, Harghita – 1941, Sibiu), Romanian physician, neurologist, university professor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj (1920/1921), Rector of the University of Dacia Superior in Cluj (1926/1927), after the premature death of the Secretary General of the University, Dr. Ștefan Jarda. He studied medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, on completion of which he became the assistant of Prof. Gheorghe Marinescu, the neurologist, attending specialization courses in Paris and London. With the establishment of the Romanian University in Cluj, he contributed to the establishment of the Neurology Clinic, opting for an academic career in Cluj. He researched and published works in the field of neuroinfections.

⁶⁰ xxx, *Cuvântările rostite la înmormântarea lui Dr. Ștefan Jarda*, 7.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid. 8.

⁶³ Ibid.

Professor Sextil Pușcariu – the Founding Rector of the University of Superior Dacia, made a heart-warming portrait of Ștefan Jarda: "I met him for the first time during the troubled days of intense activity in 1919. His noble impetus, calling on Romanians from all the areas of the homeland to contribute to the country's new institutions, had made him leave, in the small town in North-Eastern Transylvania, his well-founded and managed affairs, and to rush to Cluj. He watched me with his serene eyes, full of kindness, and spoke to me in the meek and balanced idiom of a man accustomed to weighing his words. From the first moment, the first secretary of our University became the most valuable collaborator of its first rector, thanks to his his skill, sound mind and full devotion"⁶⁴.

The period in which Ștefan Jarda carried out his activity, which he placed in the service of building the foundations of Romanian higher education in Transylvania and of the academic community, and thus in the service of culturally emancipating Romanians was particularly intense, still full of chaos after the vacuum created by the retreating Hungarian administration. It was the period "when everything had to be made anew: for new times demanded new forms; they had to be made fast, because students willing to learn were knocking at the gates of the first Romanian University in Dacia Superior; they had to be made thoroughly, as the foundation of future achievements was now being laid. Ștefan Jarda was at his post as a worker who knew not what rest was"⁶⁵.

Less visible to the uninformed, his work was justly appreciated by those who knew him closely.

Here is how Sextil Pușcariu characterized him: "His persistent work, every day, lies hidden in the archive of the Rector's Office: chancellery work is all the better if it is seen less. It is like the scaffolding with the help of which a building is erected: the builders step on it when placing stone on top of another stone. The moment the edifice is up, the scaffolding is taken down..."⁶⁶ Proving a broad vision, the Founding Rector continued his assertion, saying, "But those who build know that the walls would not have been able to be erected without a scaffolding; only those who have laid the bricks for the construction of the Cluj University, only we are able to truly appreciate the collaboration of Ștefan Jarda, who liked to modestly step aside whenever the University manifested outside, but who was the first to help when its internal paths had to be smoothed"⁶⁷. The foundation and the prosperity of the University of Cluj was where "this honest servant, skilful, hardworking and devoted, placed a part of his soul"⁶⁸. What greater appreciation could Ștefan Jarda receive than the magisterial words of the Founding Rector, the scholar Sextil Pușcariu?

⁶⁴ Ibid. 10.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid. 10-11.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

Dr. Ștefan Jarda showed a remarkable sense of civic duty and patriotism, placed in the service of the Nation. Thus, his merit is duly recognized for coming to Cluj in 1919, to "this small Romanian island, surrounded by a sea of foreignness, for understanding the meaning and purpose of the Romanian society and in particular of the Romanian intellectuals residing in Cluj, whose mission was to broaden the island of Romanianness and to conquer the land of this foreign city providing a means of settlement for every Romanian family".⁶⁹ It should be noted and honestly acknowledged that "in the Romanian society of Cluj, intellectuals from Năsăud played a great role in completing the organization of the Romanian State",⁷⁰ and Ștefan Jarda, as Secretary General of the University, "served as a point of focus, and was a good guide for the youth",⁷¹ because, in addition to the position of Secretary general of the University, he was also the Secretary of the Commission of University Dormitories, a position from which he could provide social support to the students.

⁶⁹ Ibidem, 13.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.